

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 14230 032119Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 SSM-03 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 /080 W
-----070750 032122Z /73

P 032110Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9913
INFO SECDEF WASH DC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
DIA WASH DC
COMSCLANT BAYONNE NJ
USNS HARKNESS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USICA WASHDC
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 14230

SECSTATE ALSO FOR AID

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCLR OVIP EG
SUBJ: POSSIBLE VISIT BY PRESIDENT SADAT TO USNS HARKNESS

1. THIS MESSAGE IS TO ALERT ADDRESSEES TO LIKELIHOOD THAT
PRESIDENT SADAT MAY BOARD USNS HARKNESS DURING HIS VISIT
TO PORT SAID JUNE 5 FOR CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARY OF
REOPENING OF SUEZ CANAL IN 1975. AFTER SUGGESTION FROM
HARKNESS, CHARGE RAISED THIS IDEA IN VERY LOW-KEY MANNER
WITH VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK MAY 31. DURING MEETING JUNE 3
MINWAR GENERAL GAMASY TOLD CHARGE AND DATT HE ALMOST
CERTAIN SADAT WOULD VISIT HARKNESS AND SAID HE WOULD
CONFIRM THIS TO CHARGE AS SOON AS HE HAD SPOKEN TO
PRESIDENT. GAMASY EXPLAINED THAT ACCOMPANIED BY EGYPTIAN
CNO ADMIRAL RIFAAT, PRESIDENT SADAT DRESSED IN HIS NAVAL
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UNIFORM WOULD TOUR PORT SAID NAVAL YARD AND INSPECT
EGYPTIAN DESTROYER THERE. GAMASY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MOST
APPROPRIATE FOR SADAT TO VISIT HARKNESS ON THIS OCCASION
SINCE US NAVY HAD CLEARED CANAL AND PERMITTED ITS REOPENING
AND SINCE HARKNESS WAS CONDUCTING HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY WITH
AID FINANCING AS SADAT HAD ARRANGED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER.
GAMASY BELIEVED SUCH A VISIT WOULD EMPHASIZE CLOSE AND

GROWING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN U.S. AND EGYPT AND COOPERATION
BETWEEN OUR TWO NAVIES.

2. AMCONSUL PORT SAID, NAVATT AND ICA PRESS OFFICER ARE
STANDING BY TO PROCEED TO PORT SAID TO HELP COVER VISIT IF
IT TAKES PLACE. WILL ADVISE ADDRESSEES AS SOON AS
EMBASSY RECEIVES CONFIRMATION THAT SADAT WILL VISIT HARKNESS.
MATTHEWS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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